



US007405372B2

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Chu**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 7,405,372 B2**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jul. 29, 2008**

(54) **LOW POWERED ACTIVATION ELECTRONIC DEVICE**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... 200/52 R,  
200/600, 511, 512; 446/297, 175, 369, 485,  
446/397; 341/20, 22, 33, 34; 345/156, 168,  
345/173, 174

See application file for complete search history.

(76) **Inventor:** **Jack Chu**, 1508-1510, 15/F, Tower II,  
Silvercord, 30 Canton Rd., Tsim Sha  
Tsui, Kowloon (HK)

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,237,886	A *	12/1980	Sakurada et al.	606/32
4,941,857	A *	7/1990	Fujimaki	446/353
6,193,579	B1 *	2/2001	Mak	446/297
6,551,165	B2 *	4/2003	Smirnov	446/175
6,585,556	B2 *	7/2003	Smirnov	446/175
6,940,291	B1 *	9/2005	Ozick	324/658
7,054,133	B2 *	5/2006	Orth	361/278
7,145,432	B2 *	12/2006	Lussey et al.	338/47
2001/0041496	A1 *	11/2001	Smirnov	446/297
2002/0042713	A1 *	4/2002	Kim et al.	704/272
2004/0119342	A1 *	6/2004	Sato et al.	307/652

\* cited by examiner

*Primary Examiner*—Michael A Friedhofer

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Raymond Y. Chan; David and Raymond Patent Firm

(\*) **Notice:** Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 395 days.

(21) **Appl. No.:** **11/212,990**

(22) **Filed:** **Aug. 26, 2005**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2006/0042919 A1 Mar. 2, 2006

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(60) Provisional application No. 60/604,874, filed on Aug. 27, 1004.

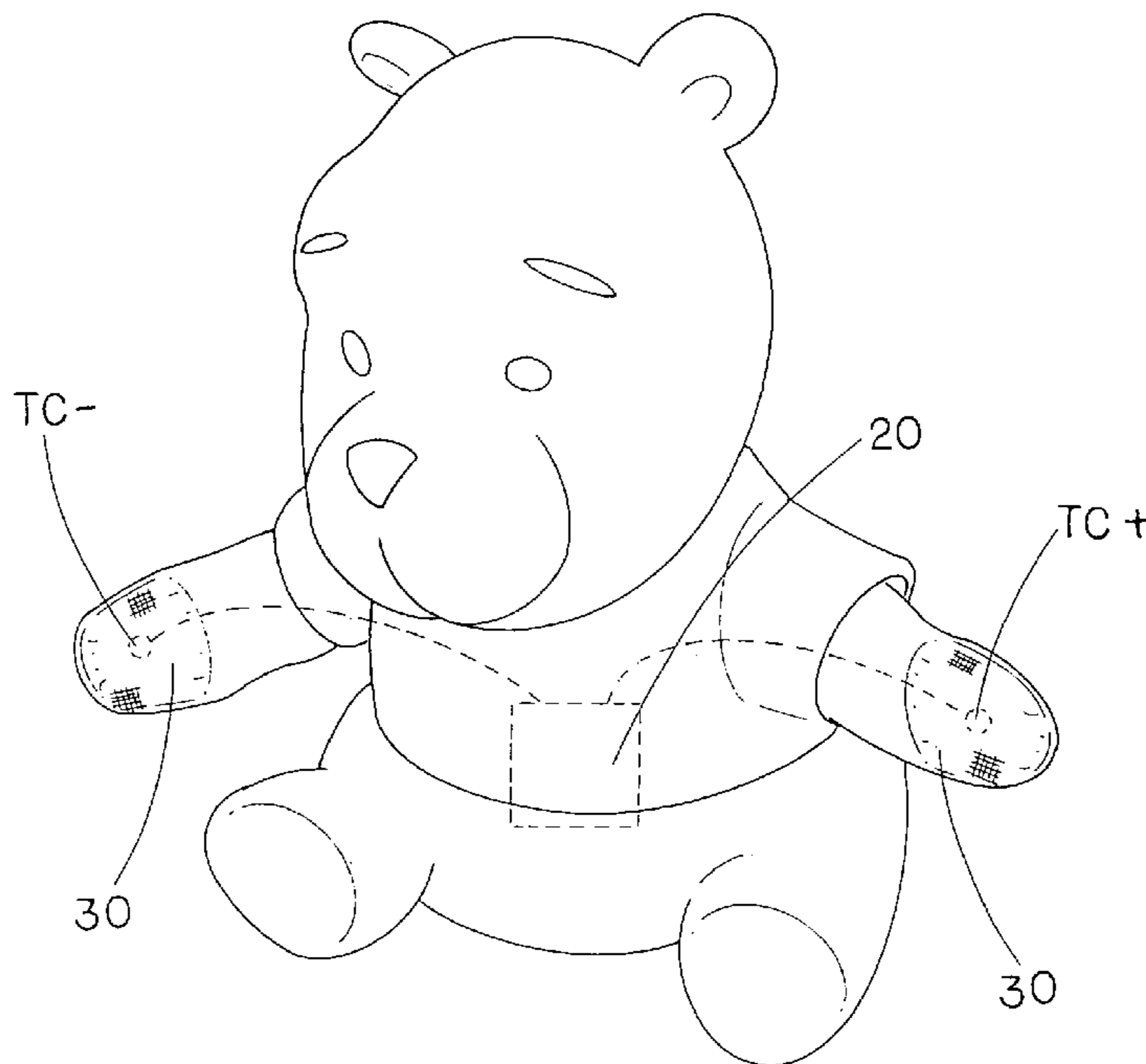
(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**H01H 9/00** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... 200/511; 200/52 R; 446/175

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A low powered activation electronic device includes a power source, an electronic circuit, having two spaced apart electrodes, electrically connected to the power source to form an opened circuit, and two fabric contacts made of textile material provided at the two electrodes of the electronic circuit, wherein the electronic circuit is formed a closed circuit to activate the electronic device in responsive to a physical touch by a human operator at the two fabric contacts.

**16 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets**



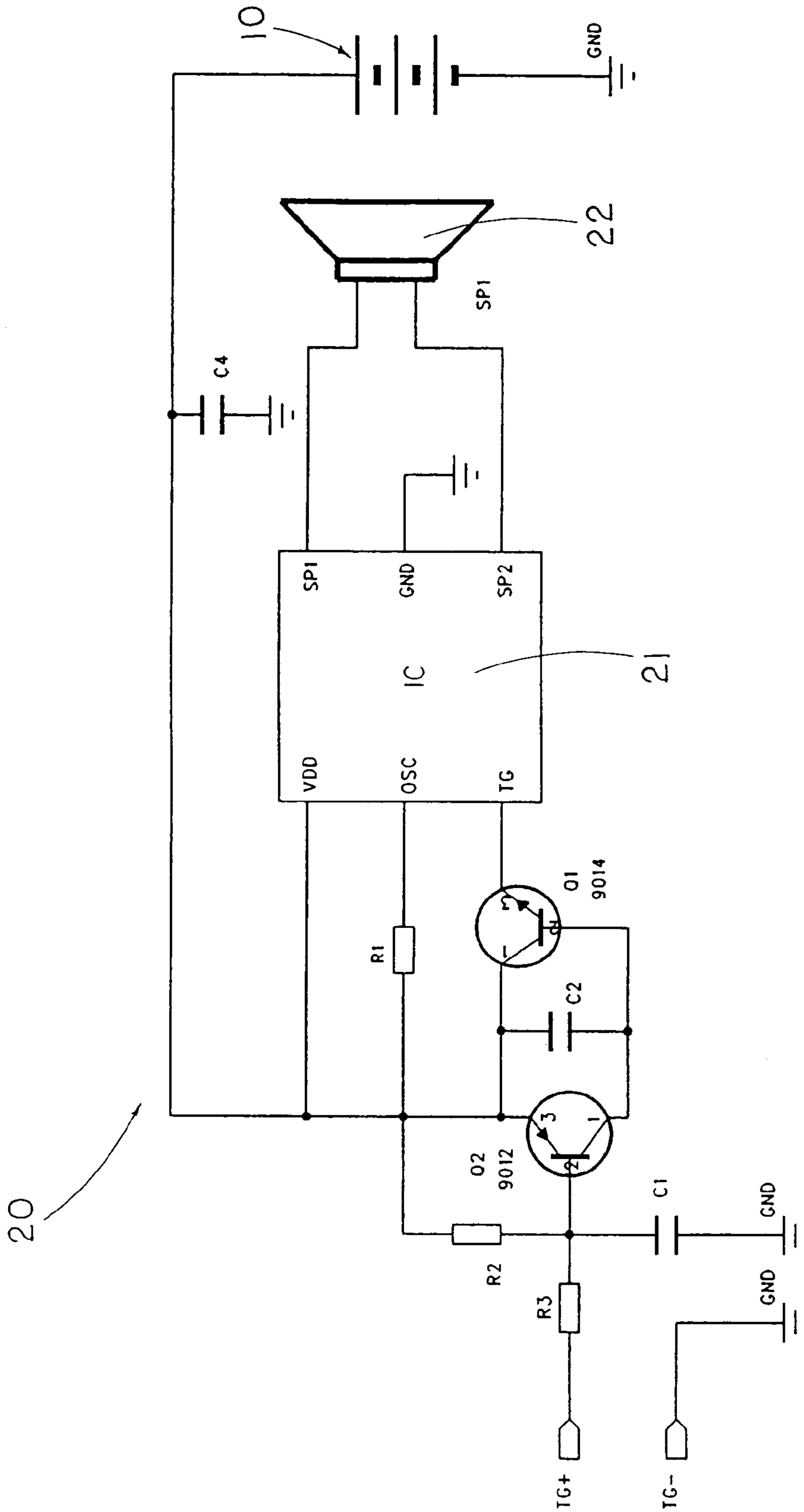


FIG.1

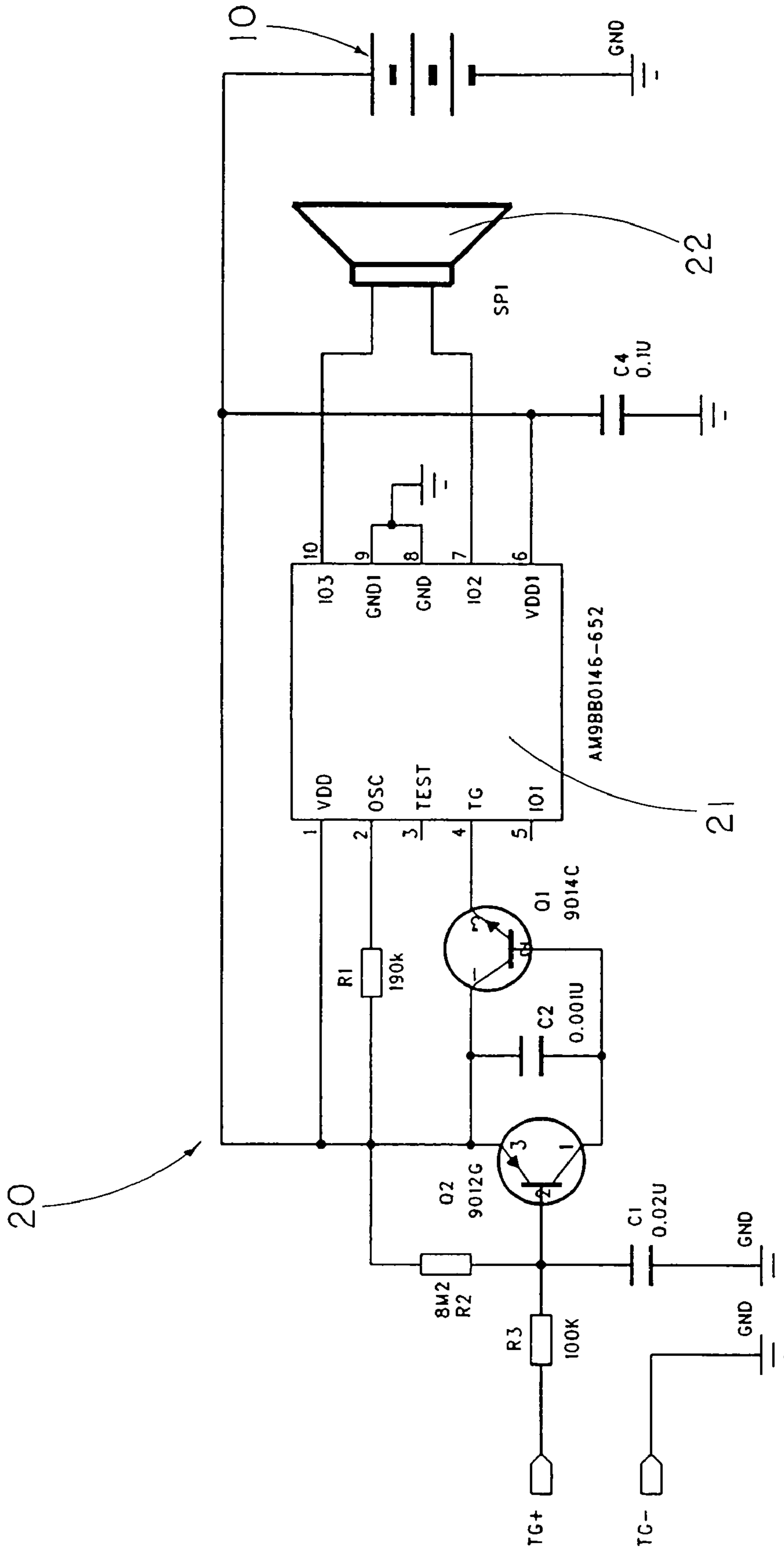


FIG.2

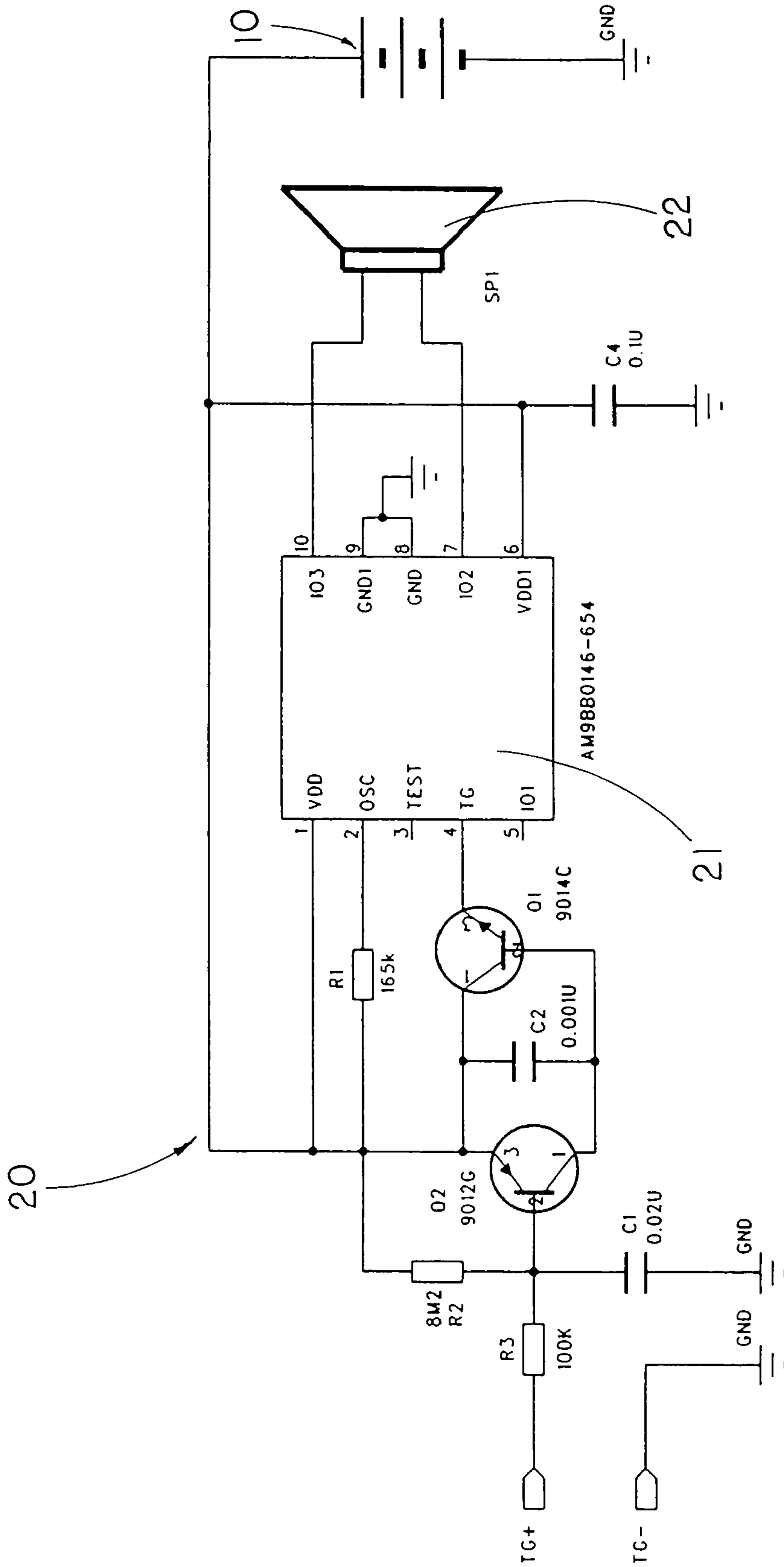


FIG.3

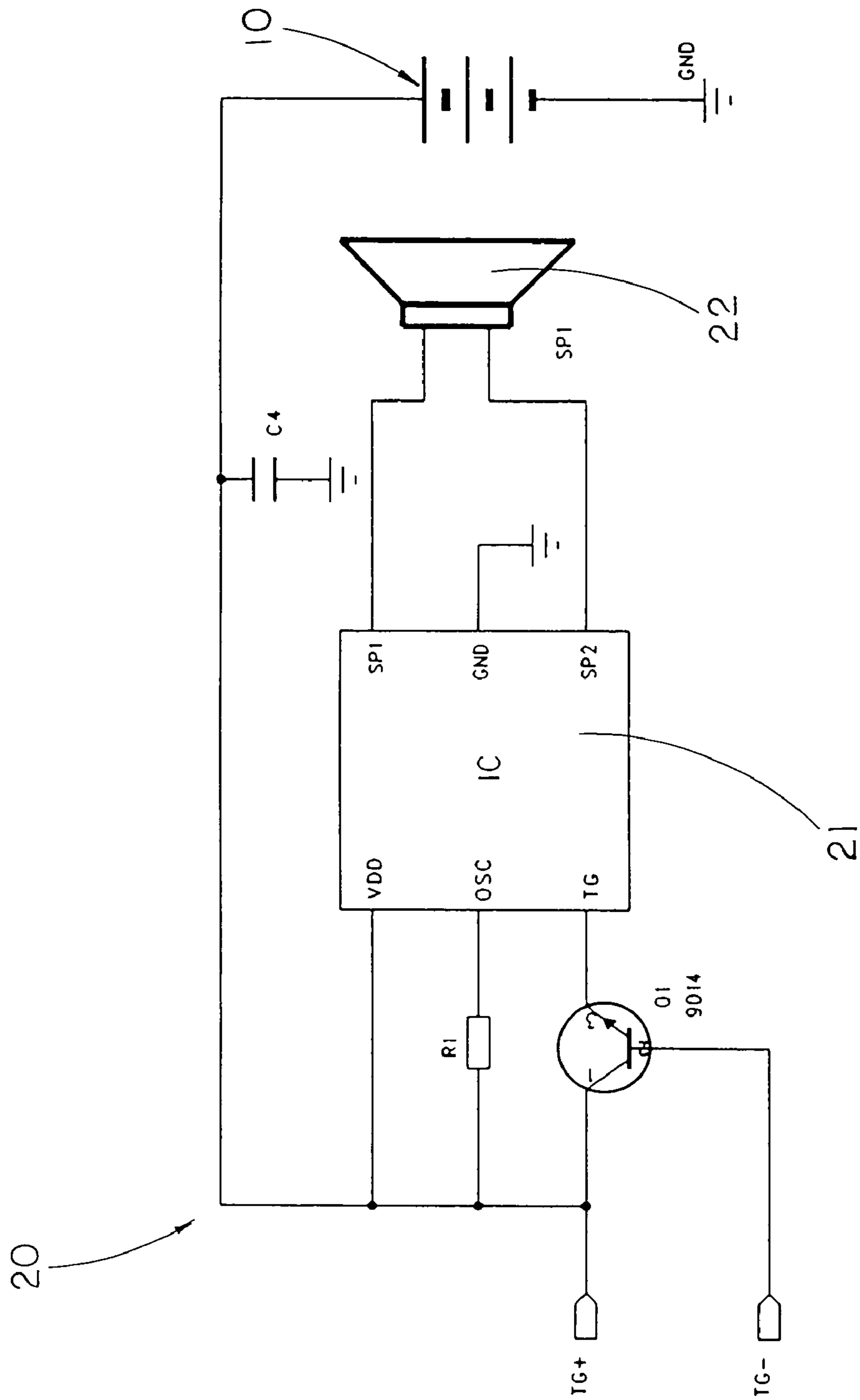


FIG. 4

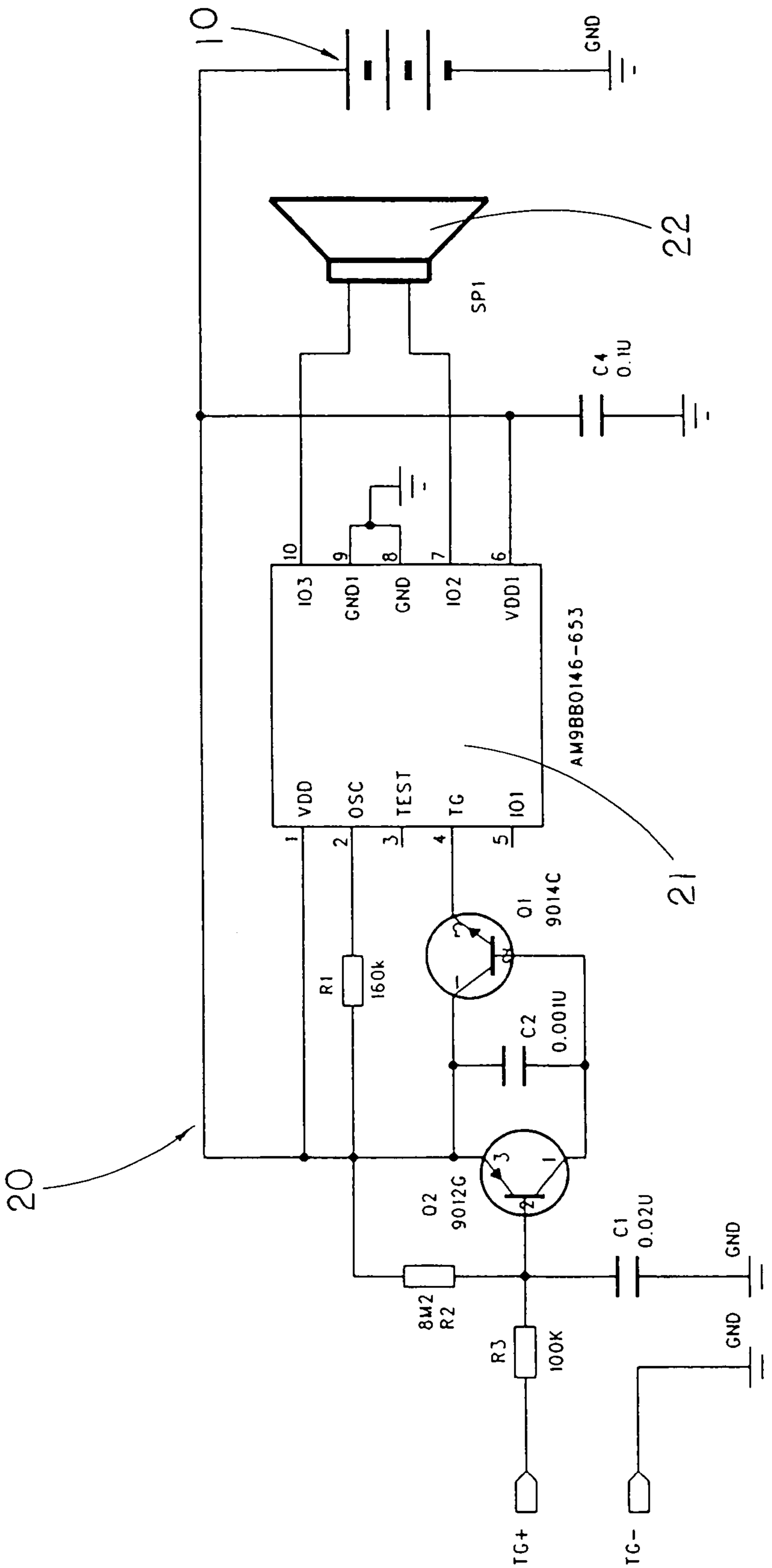


FIG.5

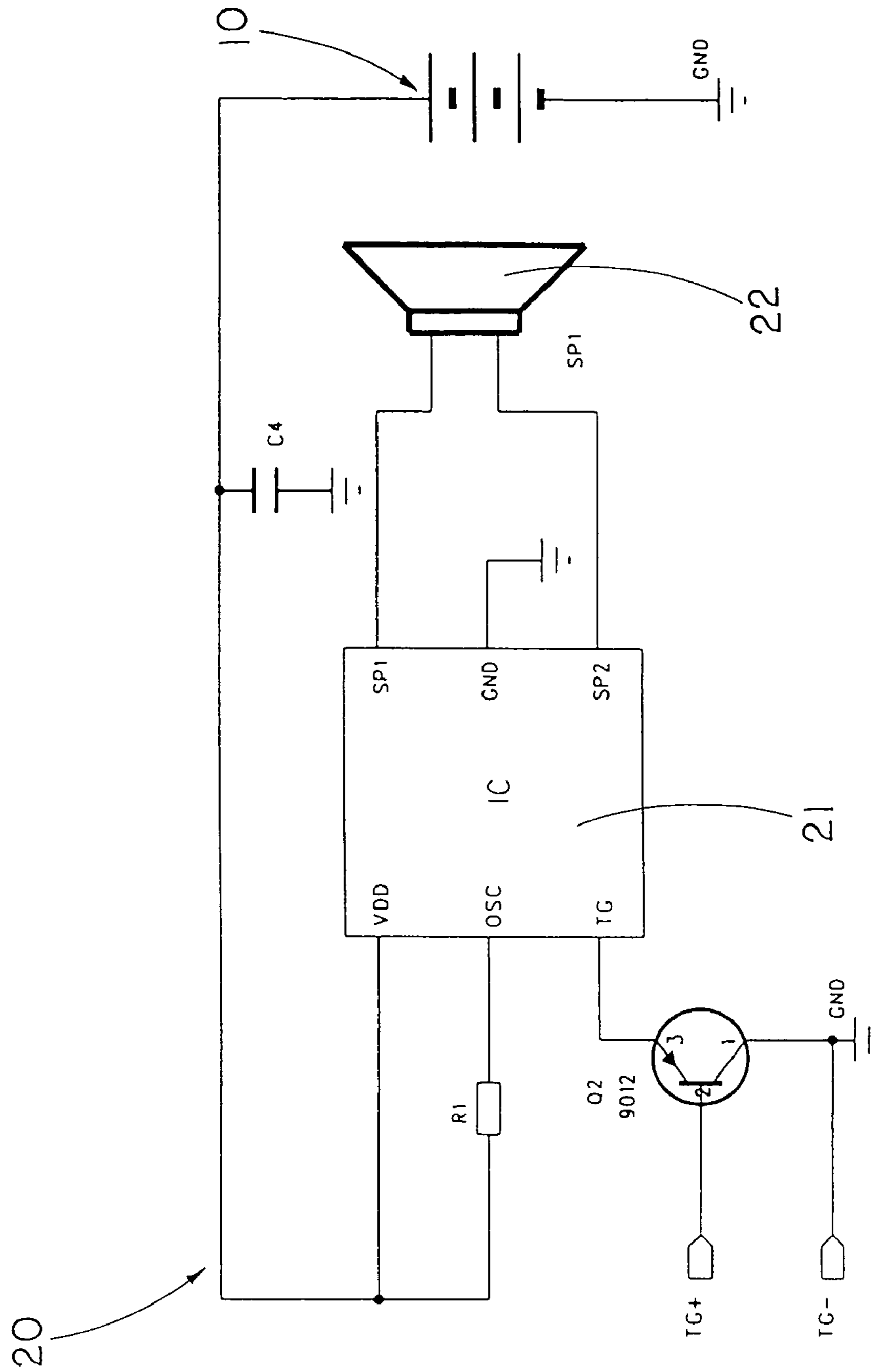


FIG. 6

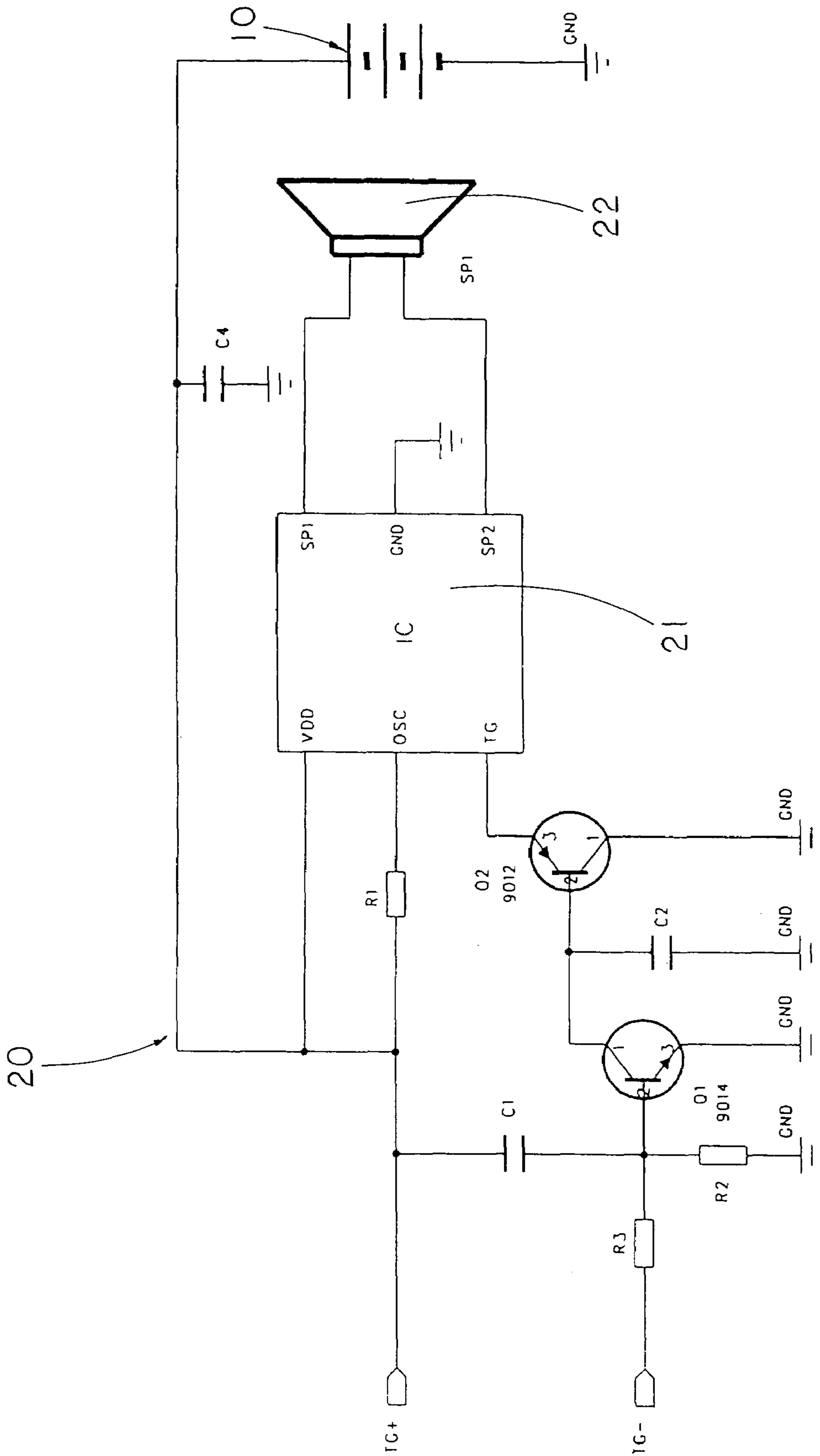
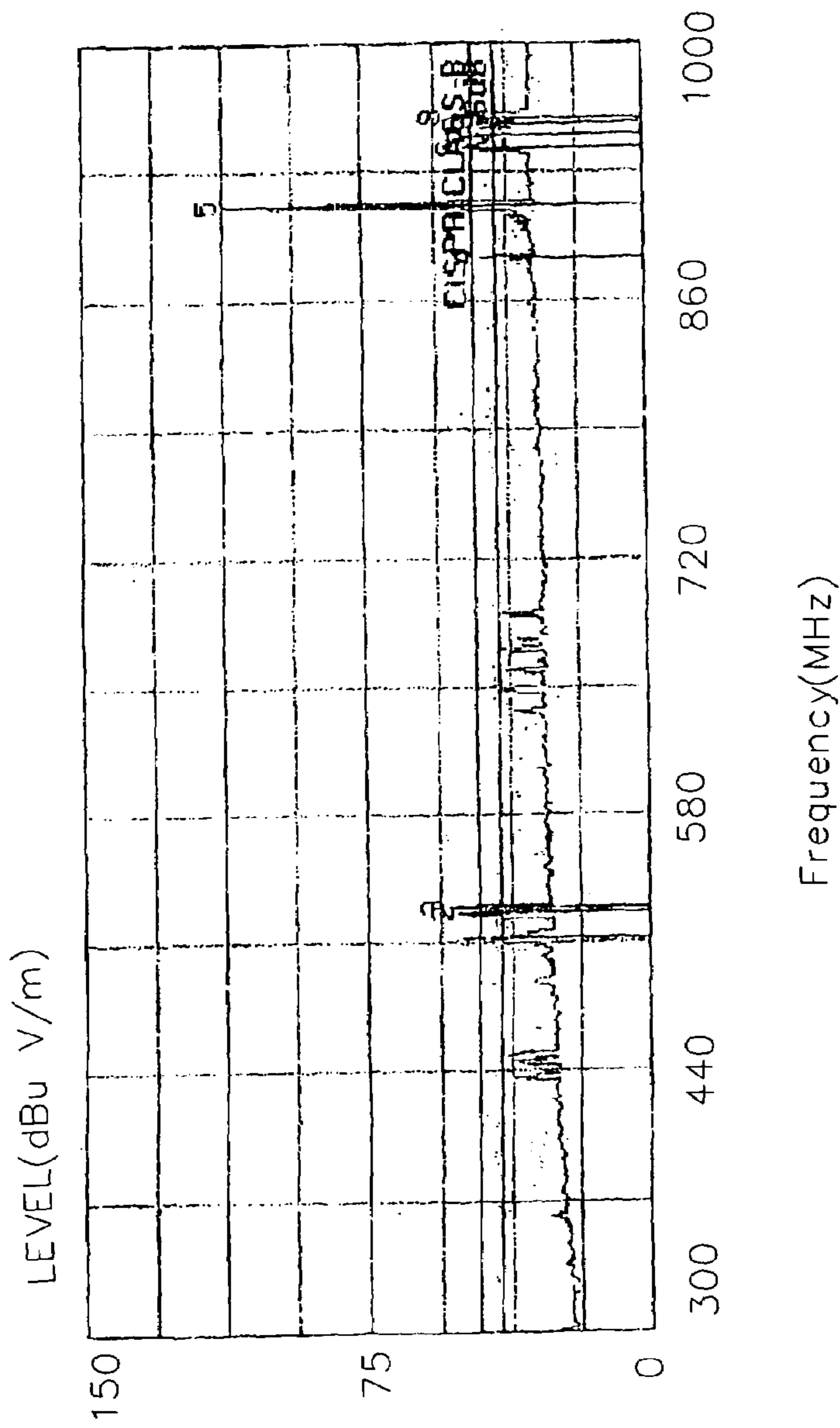


FIG. 7





	Freq	Level	Limit	Over	Read	Factor
	MHz	dBuV/m	dBuV/m	dB	dBuV	dB
1 !	511.400	43.20	47.00	-3.80	42.20	1.00
2 *	525.400	51.74	47.00	4.74	51.25	0.49
3 *	528.900	54.74	47.00	7.74	53.74	1.00
4 !	882.400	44.95	47.00	-2.05	40.88	4.07
5 *	910.400	112.57	47.00	65.57	108.63	3.95
6 *	943.300	48.70	47.00	1.70	43.83	4.87
7 !	950.300	45.39	47.00	-1.61	40.47	4.92
8 !	955.900	43.88	47.00	-3.12	39.01	4.87
9 *	959.400	53.42	47.00	6.42	48.72	4.70

FIG.8

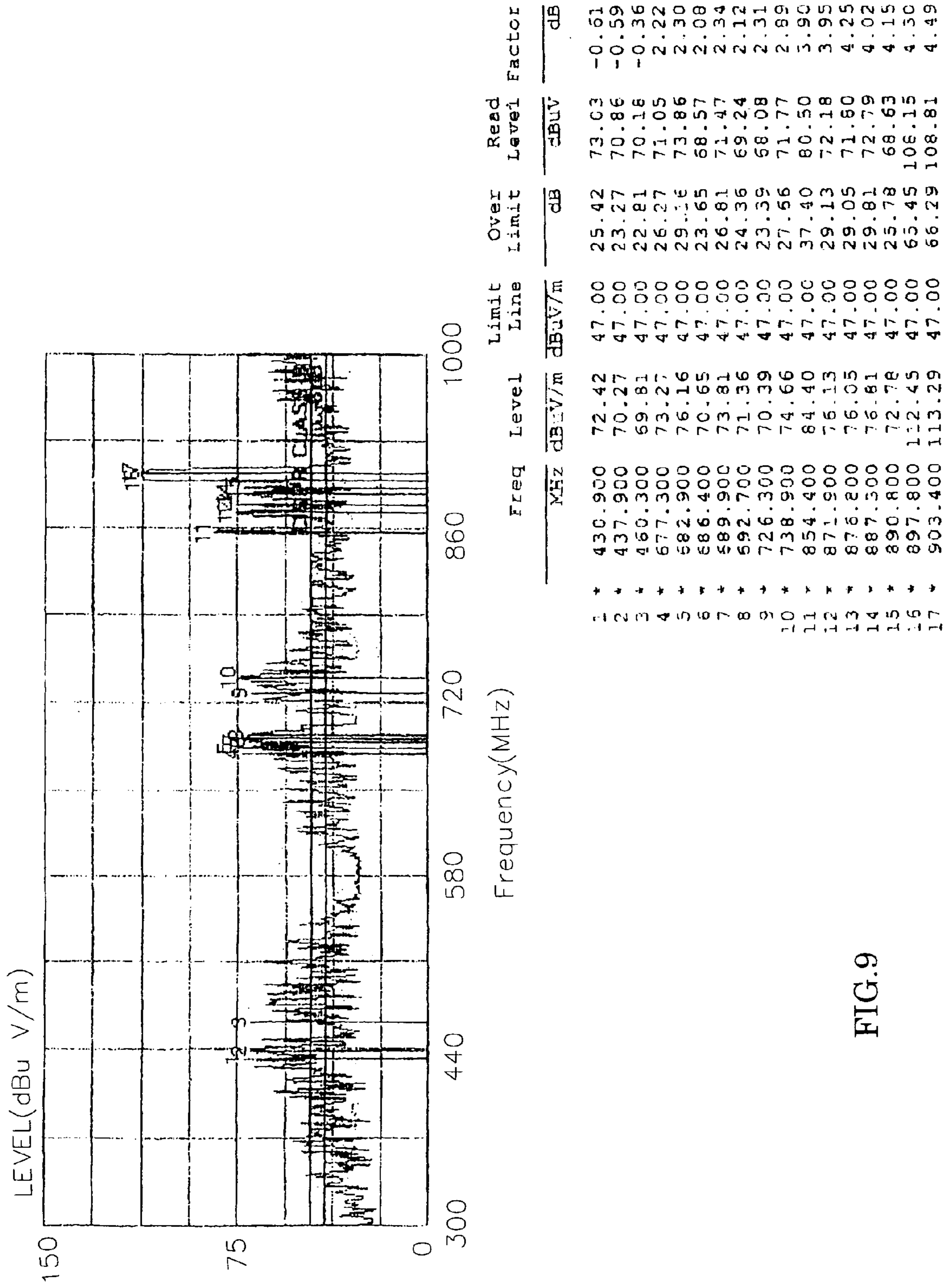


FIG.9

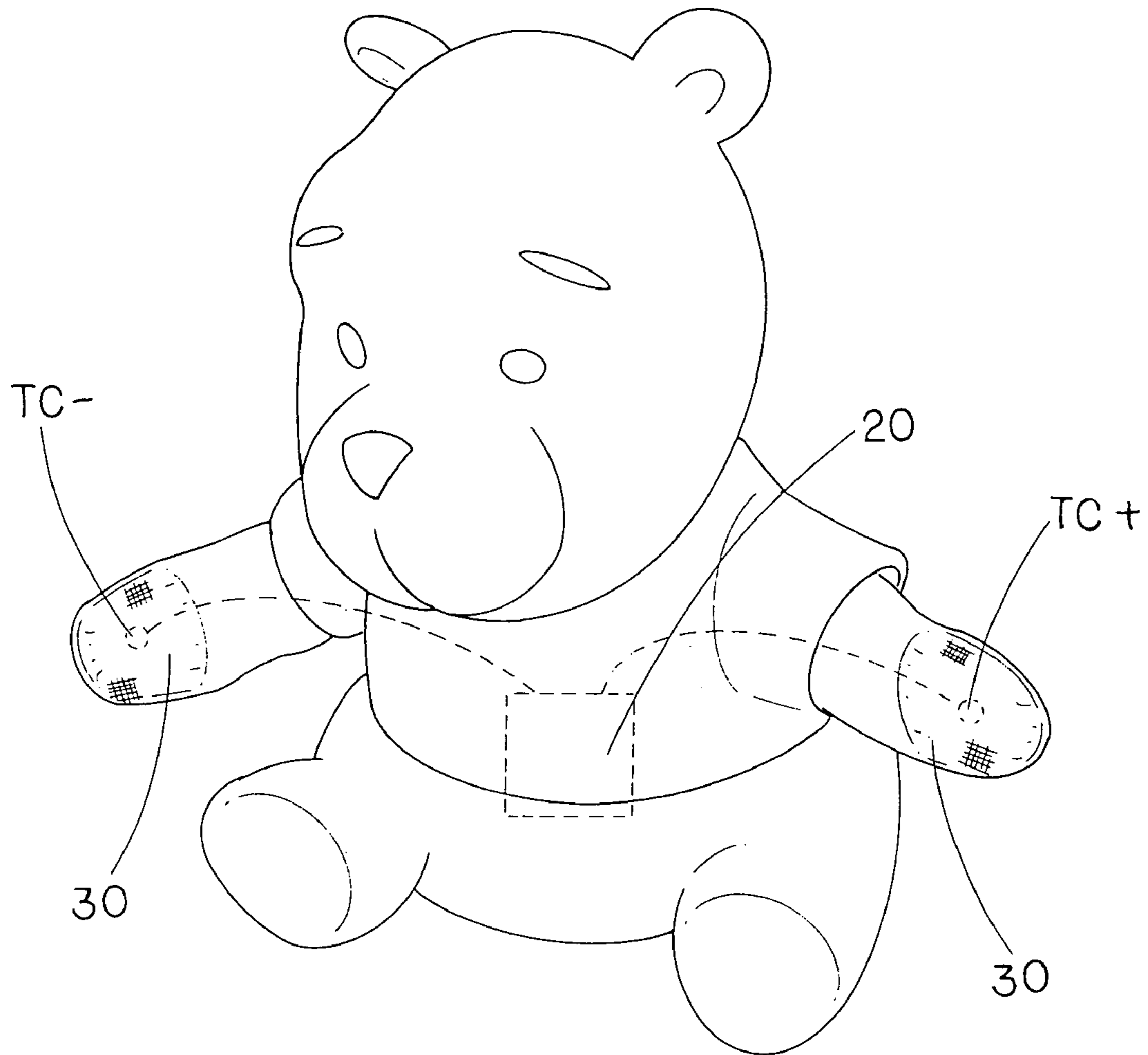


FIG.10

## LOW POWERED ACTIVATION ELECTRONIC DEVICE

### CROSS-REFERENCE OF RELATED APPLICATION

This is a non-provisional application of a provisional application having an application No. 60/604,874 and a filing date of Aug. 27, 2004.

### BACKGROUND OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

#### 1. Field of Invention

The present invention relates to an electronic apparatus, and more particularly to a low powered activation electric device which requires relatively low amperage for activation so as to allow human as a human conductor contacting with two conductive electrodes of an opened electronic circuit to form a closed electronic circuit in a human harmless manner.

#### 2. Description of Related Arts

A conventional switch comprises a lever arranged to operate an electrical device between an "on" position and an "off" position by flicking the lever. An improved switch, which does not require any flicking movement of the lever, is a touch switch. Accordingly, the touch switch is a switch that is turned on and off by touching a wire contact. In comparison with the conventional switch, the touch switch require less mechanical part since the user is able to simply touch a conductor panel of the touch switch for activate the electrical device. However, such touch switch has several drawbacks.

Accordingly, since the touch switch requires the conductor panel contacting with a terminal of the opened circuit to form a closed circuit of the electrical device, an insulating film must be provided between the conductor panel and the terminal to prevent any mis-contact therebetween. Therefore, once the insulating film is worn off after a period of continuous use, the activation operation of the electrical device will be malfunctioned.

In addition, even though the touch switch does not require any flicking movement of the lever, the touch switch requires a slight displacement of the conductor panel to contact with the terminal of the circuit. However, the conductor panel will be eventually mis-aligned with the terminal of the circuit after a period of continuous use. In other words, the reliability of the touch switch will be gradually reduced.

Furthermore, the feeling of touching the conductor panel merely feels as touching a metal plate. Since the conductor panel is made of metal, the conductor panel losses its flexibility and textile feeling. In other words, the inherent feature of the metal plate limits the usage of the conductor panel. Thus, static always occurs at the conductor panel when the conductor is touched by human.

### SUMMARY OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

A main object of the present invention is to provide a low powered activation electronic device which requires relatively low amperage for activation so as to allow human as a human conductor contacting with two conductive electrodes of an opened electronic circuit to form a closed electronic circuit in a human harmless manner.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a low powered activation electronic device, wherein the conductive electrodes are made of textile material so as to provide a textile feeling when touching the conductive electrodes to form a closed electronic circuit.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a low powered activation electronic device, wherein the conductive electrodes are made of stainless steel fiber (SSF) fabrics or other electro-conductive textile material, so as to provide versatility, flexibility, durability, softness, and unique feeling for touching. Therefore, the conductive electrodes are excellently used in toys and other related children's products.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a low powered activation electronic device, wherein no displacement of the conductive electrode is required to activate the electronic device so as to enhance the reliability of the conductive electrode for activation.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a low powered activation electronic device, wherein the activation of the electronic device is easy and simply by touching the two conductive electrodes such that a child is able to activate the electronic device by two hands.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a low powered activation electronic device, wherein no expensive or complicated structure is required to employ in the present invention in order to achieve the above mentioned objects. Therefore, the present invention successfully provides an economic and efficient solution not only for providing a circuit configuration for the electronic device but also for broadening the application of the conductive electrode.

Accordingly, in order to accomplish the above objects, the present invention provides a low powered activation electronic device, comprising:

- a power source;
- an electronic circuit, having two spaced apart electrodes, electrically connected to the power source to form an opened circuit; and
- two fabric contacts made of textile material provided at the two electrodes of the electronic circuit, wherein the electronic circuit is formed a closed circuit to activate the electronic device in responsive to a physical touch by a human operator at the two fabric contacts.

These and other objectives, features, and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description, the accompanying drawings, and the appended claims.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a circuit diagram of electronic circuit of a low powered activation electronic device according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention, illustrating the two fabric contacts.

FIG. 2 illustrates a first alternative mode of the electronic circuit according to the above preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 3 illustrates a second alternative mode of the electronic circuit according to the above preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 4 illustrates a third alternative mode of the electronic circuit according to the above preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5 illustrates a fourth alternative mode of the electronic circuit according to the above preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 6 illustrates a fifth alternative mode of the electronic circuit according to the above preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 7 illustrates a sixth alternative mode of the electronic circuit according to the above preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 8 illustrates the electro-conductive properties of the electronic circuit with the stainless steel fiber (SSF) fabrics according to the above preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 9 illustrates the electro-conductive properties of the electronic circuit without the stainless steel fiber (SSF) fabrics according to the above preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 10 illustrates an application of the low powered activation electronic device for a children's toy according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to FIG. 1 of the drawings, a low powered activation electronic device according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention is illustrated, wherein the low powered activation electronic device comprises a power source 10, and an electronic circuit 20, having two spaced apart electrodes TC+, TC-, electrically connected to the power source 10 to form an opened circuit.

The low powered activation electronic device further comprises two fabric contacts 30 made of textile material provided at the two electrodes TC+, TC- of the electronic circuit 20, wherein the electronic circuit 20 is formed a closed circuit to activate the electronic device in responsive to a physical touch by a human operator at the two fabric contacts 30.

According to a preferred embodiment, the low powered activation electronic device of the present invention is especially designed for children's toy and other related electronic products. Since it requires a relatively low power to activate the electronic circuit 20, even a child is able to operate the electronic device without harming the child when the child touches the fabric contacts 30.

As shown in FIG. 10, the low powered activation electronic device of the present invention is used in the children's toy, such as a doll, having an interior cavity. The power source 10 and the electronic circuit 20 are adapted for being disposed in the interior cavity of the children's toy, wherein the two electrodes TC+, TC- are extended from the electronic circuit 20 within the interior cavity of the children's toy. The two fabric contacts 30 are electrically coupled at the two electrodes TC+, TC- respectively at an outer surface of the children's toy.

For example, the two electrodes TC+, TC- are extended from the electronic circuit 20 and spacedly extended within the doll at two hands thereof while the fabric contacts 30 are integrally provided on the outer surface of the doll at two hand surfaces of the doll to contact with the electrodes TC+, TC- such that when the child touches the fabric contacts 30 of the doll, the electrodes TC+, TC- are electrically connected through the child to form a closed circuit of the electronic circuit 20 so as to activate the electronic device. It is worth to mention that the fabric contacts 30 can be positioned at two feet surfaces of the doll to contact with the electrodes TC+, TC- at two feet of the doll. Likewise, the fabric contacts 30 can be positioned at two ear surfaces of the doll to contact with the electrodes TC+, TC- at two ears of the doll to activate the electronic device when the child touches the ears of the doll. It is worth to mention that when the hands of the child touch the fabric contacts 30, the electrodes TC+, TC- are electrically connected through the child to form a closed circuit of the electronic circuit 20 so as to activate the electronic device. Thus, two or more children, holding their hands with each other, can form a human conductor to form the

closed circuit of the electronic circuit 20 when the fabric contacts 30 are touched by the children.

Accordingly, the power source 10 comprises a replaceable battery electrically connected to the electronic circuit 20, wherein the power source 10 is replaceably disposed in the doll such that the power source 10 can be replaced when there is out of battery.

Each of the fabric contacts 30 is made of electro-conductive textile material such as stainless steel fiber (SSF) fabrics which provides versatility, flexibility, durability, softness, and unique feeling for touching.

Accordingly, SSF fabrics and other electro-conductive textile materials can be used as primary conduits to complete the opened circuit. But in this case, they are being used as intermediate or secondary electricity conductors. The human operator(s), such as the child, connects the opposite ends of electro-polarities by touching both conductive electrodes covered by SSF fabrics and other electro-conductive textile materials, which serve as the primary conductor to close the opened circuit, thereby activating the electronic device.

The concept of the "human conductor" is not new, Humans are widely capable of being conductors of electric energy. At very low power levels (characterize by low amperage), little or no physical effect will be felt by the human operator as electric energy passes through the human body. However, the combination of 1) Human conductivity, and 2) The utilization of SSF fabrics or other electro-conductive textile materials, 3) The activation, operation, and/or termination of electronic devices, especially in children's toys and other related electronic products. Accordingly, FIGS. 8 and 9 are diagrams elaborating the application of the conductive fabric actually help out shielding off some electro-magnetic-inductance.

In other words, the activation of low powered battery operated electronic device is operated by the human operator(s) touching on both opposite ends of the electrodes covered by the fabric contacts 30 or other electro-conductive textile materials, thereby closing the opened electronic circuit.

The circuit diagrams of the low powered activation electronic device includes, but not limited to, FIG. 1, FIG. 2, FIG. 3, FIG. 4, FIG. 5, FIG. 6 and FIG. 7.

The electronic circuit 20 in FIG. 1, FIG. 2, FIG. 3, FIG. 4, FIG. 5, FIG. 6 and FIG. 7 are opened between points TG+ and TG-.

Once the opened circuits in TG+ and TG- are closed in FIG. 1, FIG. 2, FIG. 3, FIG. 4, FIG. 5, FIG. 6 and FIG. 7, the low powered activation electronic device will be activated.

The electrode in TG+ is covered by stainless steel fiber (SSF) fabrics or electro-conductive textile materials.

The electrode in TG- is covered by stainless steel fiber (SSF) fabrics or electro-conductive textile materials.

Electrodes in TG+ covered by stainless steel fiber (SSF) fabrics or electro-conductive textile materials are separated by non-conductive materials from the electrodes in TG- covered by stainless steel fiber (SSF) fabrics or electro-conductive textile materials.

The stainless steel fiber (SSF) fabrics or electro-conductive textile materials covering TG+ or TG- serve as intermediate or secondary conductors between the electrodes and the human operator.

The physical touch by human operator(s) connecting the opposite ends of the electrodes (TG+ and TG-) close the opened circuit in FIG. 1, FIG. 2, FIG. 3, FIG. 4, FIG. 5, FIG. 6 and FIG. 7, and thereby activates the low powered activation electronic device.

According to the preferred embodiment, the electronic circuit 20 can be configured as shown in FIGS. 1 to 7, wherein the electronic circuit 20 is configured by at least a triode,

5

resistance, and capacitor. The electronic circuit 20 further comprises a memory module 21, i.e. the IC, having a pre-stored program therein and a circuit output 22 which is linked with the memory module 21 and is arranged when the electronic circuit 20 is activated, i.e. closing the opened circuit by touching the two electrodes TC+, TC-, the memory module 21 outputs an output signal to the circuit output 22.

As above mentioned example, the circuit output 22 comprises a speaker disposed in the doll, wherein the memory module 21 contains a musical program such that when the child touches the fabric contacts 30 to activate the electronic circuit 20, the memory module 21 output the musical signal as the output signal to the speaker of the circuit output 22 for broadcasting the music. Alternatively, the circuit output 22 can be a micro motor at the head of the doll such that when the electronic circuit 20 is activated, the micro motor is actuated to shake the head of the doll.

Alternatively, the low powered activation electronic device comprises the electronic circuit 20 having a single electrode TC wherein the fabric contact 30 made of textile material provided at the electrode TC of the electronic circuit 20, such that the electronic circuit 20 is formed a closed circuit to activate the electronic device in responsive to a physical touch by a human operator at the fabric contact 30.

One skilled in the art will understand that the embodiment of the present invention as shown in the drawings and described above is exemplary only and not intended to be limiting.

It will thus be seen that the objects of the present invention have been fully and effectively accomplished. Its embodiments have been shown and described for the purposes of illustrating the functional and structural principles of the present invention and is subject to change without departure from such principles. Therefore, this invention includes all modifications encompassed within the spirit and scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A low powered activation electronic device, comprising:
  - a power source;
  - an electronic circuit, having two spaced apart electrodes, electrically connected to said power source to form an opened circuit of said electronic circuit, wherein said electronic circuit comprises a memory module having a pre-stored program therein and a circuit output which is electrically linked with said memory module and is arranged in such a manner that when said electronic circuit is activated, said memory module outputs an output signal to said circuit output; and
  - two fabric contacts made of textile material provided at said two electrodes of said electronic circuit, wherein when said fabric contacts are simultaneously touched by two body parts of a human operator respectively, said human operator acts as a human conductor to form a closed circuit with said power source and said electronic circuit, such that said memory module and said circuit output is arranged to be activated and powered by said power source in responsive to said physical touch by said human operator at said two fabric contacts.
2. The low powered activation electronic device, as recited in claim 1, wherein said fabric contacts are made of electro-conductive textile materials covering at said electrodes respectively.
3. The low powered activation electronic device, as recited in claim 2, wherein said power source comprises a replaceable battery electrically connected to said electronic circuit.

6

4. The low powered activation electronic device, as recited in claim 1, wherein said fabric contacts are made of stainless steel fiber (SSF) fabrics covering at said electrodes respectively.

5. The low powered activation electronic device, as recited in claim 4, wherein said power source comprises a replaceable battery electrically connected to said electronic circuit.

6. The low powered activation electronic device, as recited in claim 1, wherein said power source comprises a replaceable battery electrically connected to said electronic circuit.

7. A low powered activation electronic device for a children's toy having an interior cavity, comprising:

a power source adapted for being disposed in said interior cavity of said children's toy;

an electronic circuit an electronic circuit, having two spaced apart electrodes, electrically connected to said power source to form an opened circuit of said electronic circuit, wherein said electronic circuit comprises a memory module having a pre-stored program therein and a circuit output which is electrically linked with said memory module and is arranged in such a manner that when said electronic circuit is activated, said memory module outputs an output signal to said circuit output, wherein said electrodes are arranged for spacedly extending within said children's toy; and

two fabric contacts made of textile material provided at said two electrodes of said electronic circuit at an outer surface of said children's toy, wherein when said fabric contacts are simultaneously touched by two body parts of a human operator respectively, said human operator acts as a human conductor to form a closed circuit with said power source and said electronic circuit, such that said memory module and said circuit output is arranged to be activated and powered by said power source in responsive to said physical touch by said human operator at said two fabric contacts.

8. The low powered activation electronic device, as recited in claim 7, wherein said fabric contacts are made of electro-conductive textile materials integrally provided on said outer surface of said children's toy to cover at said electrodes respectively.

9. The low powered activation electronic device, as recited in claim 8, wherein said power source comprises a replaceable battery electrically connected to said electronic circuit.

10. The low powered activation electronic device, as recited in claim 7, wherein said fabric contacts are made of stainless steel fiber (SSF) fabrics integrally provided on said outer surface of said children's toy to cover at said electrodes respectively.

11. The low powered activation electronic device, as recited in claim 10, wherein said power source comprises a replaceable battery electrically connected to said electronic circuit.

12. The low powered activation electronic device, as recited in claim 7, wherein said power source comprises a replaceable battery electrically connected to said electronic circuit.

13. A low powered activation electronic device for a children's toy having an interior cavity, comprising:

a power source adapted for being disposed in said interior cavity of said children's toy;

an electronic circuit an electronic circuit, having two spaced apart electrodes, electrically connected to said power source to form an opened circuit of said electronic circuit, wherein said electronic circuit comprises a memory module having a pre-stored program therein and a circuit output which is electrically linked with said

7

memory module and is arranged in such a manner that when said electronic circuit is activated, said memory module outputs an output signal to said circuit output, wherein said electrodes are arranged for spacedly extending within said children's toy; and  
one or more fabric contacts made of textile material provided at said two electrodes of said electronic circuit at an outer surface of said children's toy, wherein when said fabric contact is touched by a human operator respectively, said human operator acts as a human conductor to form a closed circuit with said power source and said electronic circuit, such that said memory module and said circuit output is arranged to be activated and powered by said power source in responsive to said physical touch by said human operator at said two fabric contact.

8

14. The low powered activation electronic device, as recited in claim 13, wherein said fabric contact is made of electro-conductive textile materials integrally provided on said outer surface of said children's toy to cover at said electrode.

15. The low powered activation electronic device, as recited in claim 13, wherein said fabric contact is made of stainless steel fiber (SSF) fabrics integrally provided on said outer surface of said children's toy to cover at said electrode.

16. The low powered activation electronic device, as recited in claim 13, wherein said power source comprises a replaceable battery electrically connected to said electronic circuit.

\* \* \* \* \*